

VACUUM COMPATIBLE AIR BEARING STAGE

ABSTRACT

5 An air bearing stage device which is suitable for use with a vacuum environment
is disclosed. According to one aspect of the present invention, a stage apparatus includes
a table that is positioned in a system vacuum chamber, a first rod that carries the table,
and first and second plates that support the first rod. The first plate includes an air
bearing surface that is held against the first side of a first wall by a first vacuum force. A
10 first drive mechanism drives the first plate to move the first rod in a first direction, and
also drives the second plate to move the first rod in the first direction, while a second
drive mechanism which includes a second rod and a first linear motor causes the second
rod to move the first rod in a second direction.